

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended, and are the claims pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,697,836) in view of Shimamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,261,052)

The present claims now recite that the network server includes "means for transmitting to the authenticated user at the terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user message arrival data when the removable memory is inserted into the terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, wherein the message arrival data indicates arrival at the network server of message information addressed to an electronic mail address of the authenticated user, after a response by the network server to an erasure request transmitted by a terminal device used by the authenticated user prior to the terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user" (emphasis added). In addition, the present claims require that the network server includes "means for converting message information addressed to said authenticated user from a first data format incompatible with the type of said terminal device currently being used by said user to a second data format compatible with the type of said terminal device currently being used by said user based on said terminal type attributes and said media type attributes of said terminal device currently being used by said user," and further that, "in response to said authenticated user (i) requesting, at a second terminal device

currently being used by said authenticated user, the message information indicated by the message arrival data from the network server and (ii) switching from a first terminal device compatible with the first data format to the second terminal device, the second terminal device being compatible with the second data format, before the requested message information is transmitted, the message information indicated by the message arrival data is converted from the first data format to the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal device." (Claim 1 (emphasis added); claim 10 includes similar limitations)

Thus, according to the claimed invention, message arrival data may be transmitted to an authenticated user at a terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, so as to notify the authenticated user of "the arrival" of message information addressed to the electronic mail address of the user at the network server, where the message information arrived after the network server responded to "an erasure request" transmitted by a terminal device which the authenticated user had used prior to the terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user. (See specification, for example, at pg. 15, ln. 8-15, pg. 16, ln. 20-24; pg. 22, ln. 9-15, pg. 23, ln. 12-21). Further, based on the message arrival data, the user can confirm transmission from the network server, to the terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, the message information addressed to the electronic address of the user which arrived at the network server after the erasure of the registration information for the authenticated user corresponding to a terminal device previously used by the authenticated user. (See specification, for

example, at pg. 17, ln. 14-16; pg. 22, ln. 12-15; pg. 24, ln. 14-21; pg. 25, ln. 17- pg. 26, ln. 2). Consequently, based on the user specification information and also the terminal device information, the network server, in response to a request for the message information by the authenticated user at a second terminal device currently being used by the user, can transmit to the second terminal device message information whose data format has been converted to the data format of the second terminal device to which the user switched from a first terminal device having a first data format. (See specification, for example, at page 41, ln. 2-6, 23-25; pg. 42, ln. 1 and 11-15).

The Examiner admitted that Kawano et al. does not disclose transmitting message arrival data indicating message information addressed to the electronic mail address of the user; and receiving a confirmation from the authenticated user requesting transmission, to the terminal device currently being used, of the message information indicated by the message arrival data. In addition, the cited portions of Kawano et al. do not appear to disclose or suggest transmitting the message information (indicated by the message arrival data) based on a request from the authenticated user at a second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, where the data format of the message information has been converted to the data format of the second terminal device, and where the user switched from a first terminal device to the second terminal device before the requested message information was transmitted, as required by the claimed invention. Therefore, the applied portions of Kawano et al. do not appear to disclose transmitting the message arrival data to the user, and transmitting the converted message information, addressed to the email address of

the user and indicated by the message arrival data, in response to a request by the authenticated user at a second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, as required by the present claims.

Shimamoto et al. does not cure the deficiencies of *Kawano et al.* regarding the requirements of the claimed invention. The cited portions of *Shimamoto et al.* appear to concern transmitting information from a server to a user of a client, and appear to state that, based on the determined destination workstation address for a user, "the body of the mail [for the user] is added to the data field and the mail frame is sent to the destination workstation." (See Col. 9, ln. 64-Col. 10, ln. 1). Nowhere do the applied portions of *Shimamoto et al.* appear to disclose or suggest transmitting message arrival data to the user, and in response to a request by the authenticated user at a terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, transmitting message information converted to the data format of the terminal device currently being used, where the authenticated user switched to the terminal device currently being used before the requested message information is transmitted, as required by the present claims.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the combination of *Kawano et al.* and *Shimamoto et al.* fails to meet all of the recited limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

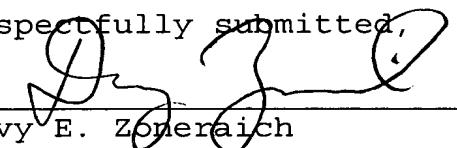
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By


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